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09/805,124

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Gary Tapperson

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EXAMINER

LUU, LE HIEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/805,124

Applicant(s)

TAPPERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Le H. Luu

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-15,24-30 and 37-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,16-23,31-36 and 44-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. Claims 1-8, 16-23, 31-36, and 44-48 are presented for examination.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8, 16-23, 31-36, and 44-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable McCain et al. (McCain) patent no. 6,129,449, in view of Eidson et al. (Eidson) patent no. 5,586,305.

4. As to claim 1, McCain teaches the invention as claimed, including a distributed industrial process control system (figures 1- 3) comprising:

a central control including a computer system, having a controller and user input/output (I/O) for providing an interface between the computer system and a user, and a wireless communication link associated with the computer system for transmitting and receiving process control and secondary information (col. 3 line 62 - col. 4 line 27); and

a distributed network of industrial process control field devices, at least one of the field devices being under the control of the controller for transmitting and receiving process control and secondary information between the field device and the controller to provide wireless communication between the computer system and the field device (col. 3 line 62 - col. 4 line 27; col. 9 line 64 – col. 10 line 12; wireless communication between

the computer system and the field device via wireless communication link of the controller).

However, McCain does not explicitly teach the process control field device having an associated wireless communication is communicatively disposed between the field device and the controller.

Eidson teaches transducer element and transducer module can be connected using dedicated communication link such as hardwire, wireless, or IR link (Eidson, figures 5, 8; col. 3 line 24 – col. 4 line 9; col. 9 lines 48-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of McCain and Eidson to disposed wireless communication link between the field device and the controller because it would allow the field device to be mobile and located at any distance to gather data.

5. As to claim 2, McCain teaches the controller is adapted to control field devices of the distributed network based upon commands from the computer system and for providing data to the computer system based upon signals received from the field devices of the distributed network (Abstract; col. 2 lines 12-23 and lines 51-65).

6. As to claims 3-4, McCain and Eidson teach the field devices and the wireless communication link associated with the field devices are powered from the distributed network (McCain, col. 3 line 62 - col. 4 line 27. Eidson, figures 5, 8; col. 3 line 24 – col. 4 line 9; col. 9 lines 48-65. In addition, applicant admitted in page 2 of the background

of the invention that field devices use two or four wires are inherently powered from the distributed network).

7. As to claims 5-6, McCain and Eidson teach the distributed network includes a field module in communication with a plurality of field devices and a wireless communication link associated with the field module to communicate with the plurality of field devices, and the distributed network includes a network bridge and a wireless communication link associated with the network bridge to communicate with field devices connected to control networks serviced by the network bridge (McCain, col. 4 lines 5-12. Eidson, figures 5, 8; col. 3 line 24 – col. 4 line 9; col. 9 lines 48-65).

8. As to claim 7, McCain teaches the secondary information includes diagnostic data (col. 1 lines 41-47; col. 9 lines 34-38).

9. As to claim 8, McCain teaches the central control is capable of communicating with the field device through the wireless communication links for monitoring process variables (col. 9 line 64 - col. 10 line 11).

10. As to claim 44, McCain and Eidson teach the wireless communication link associated with the at least one of the field devices is disposed on a field module communicatively connected to the field devices via a hard-wire communication link

(figure 2; col. 3 line 62 – col. 4 line 27; col. 9 line 64 – col. 10 line 2. Eidson, figures 5, 8; col. 3 line 24 – col. 4 line 9; col. 9 lines 48-65).

11. As to claims 45, Eidson teaches the wireless communication link is disposed on the field devices (figures 5, 8; col. 3 line 24 – col. 4 line 9; col. 9 lines 48-65).

12. As to claim 46, McCain and Eidson teach the wireless communication link associated with the at least one of the field devices is adapted to communicate directly with the wireless communication link associated with the computer system link (McCain, figure 2; col. 3 line 62 – col. 4 line 27; col. 9 line 64 – col. 10 line 2; Eidson, figures 5, 8; col. 3 line 24 – col. 4 line 9; col. 9 lines 48-65).

13. Claims 16-23, 31-36, and 47-48 have similar limitations as claims 1-8 and 44-46; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

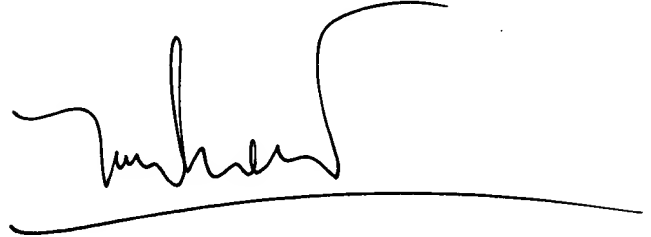
14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Le H. Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-3884. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharja can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Le Hien Luu', written over a horizontal line.

LE HIEN LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER